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SUBJECT Political Commissars in KNOJ Formations of
the Yugoslav Army

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1. During the war political commissars were chosen at random from among serving soldiers for their superior intelligence and personality. Those selected at that time are now being compulsorily retained in service, even though their demobilization may be well overdue.
2. The lowest rank of political commissar in service is the ensign (delegate); otherwise ranks correspond to those of ordinary military personnel. Until December 1947, political commissars were attached to units as small as platoons; since that date, however, they have been withdrawn from platoons and are only to be found in larger units.
3. Two or three KOS officers (military UDB) with the rank of captain or lieutenant are attached to each KNOJ battalion. These officers are not distinguished by any special badge of office, and have no function other than checking the political reliability of all personnel. In the execution of this duty they make no differentiation between political commissars and other personnel. These officers are relieved at intervals of about two months.
4. Personnel of KNOJ units are usually placed at the disposal of the political commissar for about two hours each afternoon. It is the political commissar's responsibility to give lectures of a propaganda nature, and to undertake political indoctrination in general. In addition the political commissar is entirely responsible for the instruction of men who are backward in elementary education. Occasionally unit officers are called in to assist in this educational training but many officers can themselves scarcely read or write.
5. Political commissar conferences are held at frequent intervals on the battalion level and are often attended by senior political commissar officers from outside the unit. In addition to discussing general affairs, and the promulgation of special instructions to subordinate political commissars, the opportunity is taken for all concerned to raise any points of discipline or morale which affect their individual units. Special conferences are called whenever there is any tendency towards disaffection among the troops in any particular area.
6. A political commissar in service with a unit is directly subordinate to his next senior political commissar, from whom he receives his instructions by letter, or occasionally by personal meeting. The unit political commissar

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has little or no responsibility to his unit commander, and has only a limited amount of executive authority. In the event of his having to report unfavorably on fellow officers, he does so by written report to his superior political commissar.

7. Personnel selected for political commissar duties during the war were sent direct to their units with little or no preliminary training. Now however, such personnel are given special courses held in larger towns. These courses last two to six months, according to whether the candidates are senior political commissars (captains or over), or juniors (lieutenants or under). At the end of their course, political commissars are sent direct to their new units, which may be either Army or KNOJ.
8. The Ljubljana Political Commissar Training School, occupies part of the third floor of a large building situated just outside the town. The remainder of the building houses either a battalion headquarters or a brigade headquarters of a KNOJ frontier control unit. The school is administered by the Frontier Brigade Headquarters, and all students are drawn from units of the brigade.
9. The following officers were employed on the staff of the school:

Officer in Charge	Lieutenant Viditz (fnu)
Instructor	Lieutenant Buncic (fnu)
Instructor	Lieutenant Tzotic (fnu)
10. The promotion of junior political commissars is normally on a time basis, although accelerated promotion for exceptional qualifications is possible. Personnel selected for political commissar duties serve three years as ensign (delegates), are then promoted to second lieutenant, and after a further four years service, reach the rank of first lieutenant.
11. There follows a list of some political commissar personalities:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Lieutenant Guardiancic	Political Commissar of Training Control Co., 2 Brigade (KNOJ).
Captain Gruden, Alessandro	2 Battalion Political Commissar, Frontier Brigade, (KNOJ).
Second Lieutenant Pauletic, Rado	Political Commissar 6 Company of 2 Battalion.
Lieutenant Zunec	Political Commissar at the Pancevo school.
Lieutenant Gruic, Alexandro	Political Commissar at the Pancevo school.
Second Lieutenant Petrovic, Nicola	Political Commissar at the Pancevo school.
Second Lieutenant Bozic, Nicola	On staff of Ljubljana school.
Second Lieutenant Sitar, Peter	Position unknown.
Second Lieutenant Zvegel, Anton	Position unknown.
Second Lieutenant Schmidt, Nicola	Position unknown.
Lieutenant Jasbec, Anton	Position unknown.
Lieutenant Croceta, Ivan	

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